



Cleaner, Greener, Cheaper: Technology Will Have Multiple Benefits

STIMULUS FUNDS SUPPORT METHANE GAS RE-USE AT WASTEWATER PLANT

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The City of Dayton will soon have an opportunity to complete one of its priority sustainability programs, following the anticipated award of up to \$2 million in federal Stimulus (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds.

The program's goal is to capture methane gas produced by waste digesters at Dayton's Wastewater Treatment Plant (2800 Guthrie Rd.) and clean it of impurities, making it suitable for potential sale and re-use as a clean energy source within the plant. The Stimulus funds would provide gas scrubbing equipment not currently installed at the plant.

"The plant already heats its facilities by burning the methane gas," said Lalit Gupta, Acting Manager of the Division of Wastewater Treatment, who is managing the project. "But impurities in the gas cause corrosion in the boiler system and other machinery. By scrubbing the digester gas, we will reduce operational and maintenance costs associated with equipment wear and tear. Also, the volume of cleaner methane gas produced will allow us to market the excess to utilities and other potential customers."

The cleaner methane will also allow the Wastewater Treatment Plant to make better use of existing gas engines to generate electricity for the plant.

Capturing and using methane as a fuel (rather than releasing it) is environmentally beneficial because methane is a potent greenhouse gas. The project will have oversight by the Ohio EPA, which is responsible for awarding a portion of Stimulus funds directed to Ohio localities.

"This is an excellent example of City of Dayton employees being creative in finding new ways to save money and be more efficient," City Manager Tim Riordan said. "Not only will the City enjoy a savings through reduced operation and maintenance costs, but it may also gain new revenue by selling excess gas, all while helping the environment."

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